

2. Statement of Educational Philosophy

American Heritage School represents a partnership among the parents, faculty, students, administration, and staff. These partners are united in their commitment to the common objectives outlined in the school's mission statement.

Education is based on the relationship between teacher and student. As role models, teachers at American Heritage School are valued by students and parents not only for their ability to instruct students in substantive areas of academic discipline, but also for their caring attitudes and nurturing spirits. Teachers are viewed as the "lively textbooks" from which students learn some of the most important lessons in life.

American Heritage School takes very seriously its responsibility to promote the spiritual and academic development of its students; however, it also recognizes that parents are primarily and ultimately responsible for their children in this regard. Thus, parents at American Heritage School expect and appreciate direct and regular communication from the faculty concerning individual needs of their children. Likewise, teachers and administrators at American Heritage School expect parents to be responsive to requests and recommendations given to parents with respect to particular needs of the individual students.

Academic excellence along with responsible citizenship and character development are points of particular emphasis at American Heritage School. Much of our teaching is based upon a methodology developed by the Foundation for American Christian Education (FACE), which implements a principle approach to education (see section 3). This principle-based approach provides perfect and natural opportunities for both academic and religious education in every subject and at every grade level.

In addition to rigorous curriculum in the traditional subject areas such as reading, mathematics, science, and history, students also participate in choral music, visual arts, and annual student productions that enrich the curriculum. Also, beautifully written and directed class devotionals are performed on a regular basis, providing for each child's poise and talents to be developed. Teachers at American Heritage School take a tutorial approach to education in order to meet each child at his/her threshold of learning.

Each of the three governing branches of the school—the Board of Trustees, the Administration, and the Parent Organization—has a separate stewardship that strengthens what the school offers to its students. The three organizations work together as a "council of three" to strengthen the solid tradition of excellence at American Heritage School.